GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:242
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2016
Women in Science and Technology
Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Yadav Shri Om Prakash

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether women"s representation and participation in national science academies remains insignificant as per a study report recently released by global survey of science academies and gender and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the number of researchers have declined during the last three years and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the policy for promotion of women in science academies has not achieved the desired result and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to have a relook at the extant policy and follow-up with necessary corrective measures to promote "women in science" and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.242 FOR 03/08/2016 REGARDING WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(a) No, Madam. Women representation and their participation in national science academies in India is steadily increasing though it is still not at par with their male counterparts. The study report recently released by global survey of science academies and gender has not taken into account output of all science academies of India and missed out the performance of Indian Academy of Science (IAS), Bangalore, National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI), Allahabad and Indian National Academy of Engineers (INAE), New Delhi. Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi is the only Indian academy that the said report has referred to. NASI has reported that the percentage of women scientists elected as Fellows in last three years (2013-15) is approx 20 per cent which is significantly higher than the global average. In addition, there are presently 34 women fellows of INSA and 4 women on its Council. Further, 16 women were selected for INSA Medal for Young Scientists in last 3 years while 6 have been chosen in 2016. Also, there are 3 women scientists on IAS Council and about 20 per cent women scientist represented on its Sectional Committee. Also, 49.47 per cent women have enrolled for PhD programme in 2013-14 and 50.09 per cent in 2014-15.

(b) No, Madam. The number of women opting for higher studies and research in science has been steadily on the rise. Girl students have been consistently outperforming the boys. University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that there are 51% females and 49% males pursuing post graduate studies in universities in India.
No, Madam. The number of women opting for higher studies and research in science has been steadily on the rise. Girl students have been consistently outperforming the boys. University Grants Commission (UGC) has reported that there are 51% females and 49% males pursuing post graduate studies in universities in India.

(c) No, Madam. The national academics are striving hard to promote women in science in India. An Ãnter Academy Panel for the Women in Science in India', constituted in the year 2015 to promote the status of women in science in India, has prepared a 'Vision Document' which scheduled for release in August 2016. Indian Academy of Sciences (IAS), Bangalore, too has a panel on 'Women in Science'. A publication titled "A Girl' Guide to Life in Science" was also brought out in 2012, to inspire & enthuse young girls to take up research. National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI) has focused on many activities to benefit women in science. Besides publishing a compendium on 'Novel Laureate Women Scientists' in 2008, NASI has instituted a Chair for a distinguished women scientists and several awards exclusively for women. The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) also continues to promote the strengthening of women in science.

(d) Government has been continuously striving to usher in gender parity in science and firm measures are being taken to ensure greater and lasting participation of women in science. The Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy 2013 enunciates, "the participation of women in STI activities is important. New and flexible schemes to address the mobility challenges of employed women scientists and technologists will be put in place. A broad scope for re-entry of women in R&D and facilitation mechanisms for special career path in diverse areas will be sought." In 2016, Department of Science & Technology (DST) constituted a Standing Committee for Promoting Women in Science which has on board several eminent researchers and academicians (a copy of the

Memorandum is placed as Annexure-I). Its first meeting was held in May 2016 at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in which various challenges being faced by women in pursuing higher studies and career in science were flagged and deliberations were held to find lasting solutions to the same. DST has also launched 'Mobility' scheme to address the challenges facing women on relocation.

SR/KIRAN/01/2016
Government of India
Ministry of Science & Technology
Department of Science & Technology
Technology Bhawan, New Delhi-110016

Dated: 11 March 2016
Office Memorandum
Subject: Constitution of Standing Committee for Promoting Women in Science.
A low representation of women in Science & Technology (S&T) in planning and policy making is a matter of concern. In recent years, though there has been significant increase in enrolment of women in (S&T) at all level, yet women are still not getting enough opportunities in academic institutions, R&D laboratories and S&T organizations. Department of Science and Technology (DST) has been making concerted efforts to identify issues facing women in science and to address them in order to bring greater representation of women in science. Adoption and execution of Women Component Plan, formulation of gender specific schemes, constitution of Task Force, gender budgeting, etc. are various efforts made by DST in this direction.
2. In continuation of the above and as per action point of Record of Discussions (RoD) of the meeting the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had with Scientists on 19.08.2015, a Standing Committee has been constituted. Composition of Standing Committee is annexed with this OM.
3. The Standing Committee would take proactive measures to identify and correct any imbalances that still persist and hinder women in S&T.
4. The terms of reference of the Standing Committee are inter alia. The Standing Committee will:
i) Make endeavours for creating gender enabling environment in S&T institutions.
ii) Recommend special measures to ensure growth of women in science.
iii) Recommend programmes designed specifically for fostering utilizing and supporting women in science, and
iv) Monitor periodically implementation of its various recommendations.
5. The members of Standing Committee shall be paid TA and honorarium as per Government of India norms.
6. This is issued with the approval of Secretary, DST, vide Dy. No E-P-540 dated 2.3.2016 and by JS & FA, DST.

Sd/
(Chander Mohan)
Scientist-G, Head-KIRAN
To all concerned

Standing Committee Composition for Promoting Women in Science

1. Prof. HS Savithri, Chairperson
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore-560012
2. Prof. Lakshmi Kantam,
Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai-400019
3. Dr. Soumya Swaminathan,
DG, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi-110029
4. Prof. Sulabha Kulkarni,
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Pune-411008
5. Dr Madhu Dixit,
Director, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow-226031
6. Prof. Asha Kishore,
Director, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Science & Technology, Trivandrum-695011
7. Prof. Rohini Godbole,
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore-560012
8. Prof. Neeta Singh,
All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi-110029
9. Prof. Sumita Jha,
University of Calcutta, Kolkata-700073
10. Dr. Tessy Thomas,
ASL, Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Hyderabad-500058
11. Prof. Shobhana Narasimhan
Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore-560064
12. Prof. AN Rai,
Former VC, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong-793022
13. Prof. Aditya Shastri,
VC, Banasthali Vidyapeeth, Banasthali-304022
14. Prof. Y Narasimhulu,
VC, Rayalseema University, Karnool-518007
15. Prof. TP Singh,
Former Professor at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi-110029
16. Prof. AP Dash,
VC, Central University of Tamil Nadu, Thiruvarur-610101

17. Dr. HB Singh, DST, New Delhi-110016 Member Secretary
18. Dr. Vandana Singh, DST, New Delhi-110016 Convener
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